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BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR BIGGER RICHMOND.

A new, enriched, rebuilt and vigorous Richmond has made up its mind to have a new, rebuilt, and vigorous city government. The demand is no novelty. Four times at least have citizens, with more or less organization, tried to improve and modernize the methods under which the city is administered. The time for change had not yet come when these plans were developed, and Richmond was content to let things stay as they were.

The earlier pioneers for changes in the city charter were discoverers and adventurers indeed, they had nothing but their own good sense to guide them; the Galveston plan was unheeded; Des Moines was not even a name, and research work in municipal affairs was as rudimentary and as scattering as some of the outposts in advanced science are to-day. Meanwhile, Richmond kept on growing; the work of the Council piled up; the duties of the commission became ever more burdensome, and at last the canals back broke. This crash was signaled by the Council itself taking up the question of improving the methods of city government. The report of the committee has been made, and everywhere received with hearty support and commendation. The Chamber of Commerce, the most representative and aggressive body of organized citizens that Richmond has ever had, endorses the report and will work for its adoption. Other business organizations will follow the same lead; the progressive members of the Council are helping to further this movement in every way, and the only danger is that an overconservatism may lead this city to let the chance slip by unused.

It is a matter of general satisfaction that the demand for newer methods has come about without any reflection upon the men who have so faithfully and successfully managed the affairs of the city of Richmond under the present charter. There is no criticism of those men, no desire to remove any individual or to lessen the power and dignity of the Council. Indeed, the position of the Councilmen of the city of Richmond under the newer government will be vastly increased in power and influence and importance, because their places will be more conspicuous and the recognition for their services will necessarily be more general and more profound. Nobody thought of criticizing the bus drivers when the mule cars superseded that method of getting down to business, and the coming of the electric cars cast no odium or reproach on the old bottler car that had formerly served the business men. Sometimes progress goes forward in a natural, evolutionary way, leaving no bitterness and causing no distress, as when a tree sheds its leaves preparatory to branching out in greater beauty for the coming year.

But where progress is dammed back we have revolution; where the will of the people is hindered or denied we have friction, heat and bitterness. Fortunately, there is no indication that in the coming campaign for a change of charter Richmond will depart from that whole-souled spirit of co-operation between the Council and the people and between the people themselves of every section that has made this city so powerful in business, so strong in its civic life, so sweet in its personal relationships, so beloved by its own citizens, and so envied and admired by the citizens of other cities.

Other cities may have fierce conflicts over charter changes, but Richmond will meet her new conditions with wisdom and courage, just as she met war and conflagration with hopefulness and vigor.

Bigger Richmond needs newer methods, and Richmond needs must be met.

WHAT THE LEAGUE DID FOR US.

Departing, the National Municipal League has left behind it the impress of a fine body of public-spirited men unselfishly and highly striving for the common good of American cities. The presence here of the league and its deliberations greatly stimulated the interest in the betterment of Richmond felt by the thoughtful men of the community, and renewed in them the faith that the best is yet to be. In Richmond, as in all cities, there is a large proportion of citizens who desire better city government, more improved methods, and that efficient administration which has had a magical effect upon the growth of so many American municipalities. As Macaulay long ago said, upon these very men, the progressive thinkers of the community, the men who know the difference between what is and what might be, depends the good government and progress of their city. The tonic effect of the league upon this part of the citizenship of Richmond has been immeasurable. These citizens have, by attending the sessions or by reading the accounts of them, rekindled their interest in the many

pressing municipal problems of Richmond; they have been inspired by the action of the delegates of the convention, who came from every quarter of the nation, to testify concerning their immutable belief in the redemption of the American city from extravagance, ignorance, inefficiency and atrophy. The league by a fortunate coincidence met here just when an aggressive campaign for better government for Richmond was being launched, and the conjunction was most auspicious. The civic consciousness of this city was powerfully stirred by the league; by their fine spirit of service the members of the league gave to the citizens of Richmond an example worthy of general imitation. Walter L. Fisher, Secretary of the Interior, told the league Monday night that it had wrought vast improvements in American cities, and it is not too much to believe that the contact of this great civic body with the people of Richmond has given a powerful impulse and acceleration to Richmond's movement for a modern form of government.

GOOD ROADS IN THE SOUTH.

Special interest will be taken by the people of the entire South in the first American Road Congress, which will be held here next week. This section of the nation is just beginning to realize the advantages of better thoroughfares and the vital importance of good roadmaking in every community in the South. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, who will be one of the many prominent speakers at the congress, has lately given out a statement in which he says that in the first ten months of the present year almost \$1,000,000 was spent in the South for better highways.

Texas, North Carolina and Virginia led the Southern States in amounts expended for good roads. Texas spent \$7,600,000; North Carolina, \$4,500,000; and Virginia, \$4,000,000. Alabama spent \$3,450,000; Arkansas, \$2,450,000; Delaware, \$1,300,000; Florida, \$1,500,000; Georgia, \$2,500,000; Kentucky, \$2,500,000; Louisiana, \$1,122,354; Maryland, \$2,250,000; Mississippi, \$2,150,000; Oklahoma, \$1,505,000; South Carolina, \$1,100,000; Tennessee, \$2,500,000; West Virginia, \$1,625,000.

According to the same authority, more than 200,000 miles of roads were built in the past twelve months. A few years ago the Department of Agriculture investigated the condition of roads throughout the nation. It was found as a result that there were 2,151,670 miles of public highways, of which 70,146 per cent. were improved. In the sixteen States of the South there were 665,151 miles of road, of which only 71,185, or 3.57 per cent. were improved.

There has been a distinct improvement of the roads of the nation since 1904. From that time the annual expenditures of money for road improvement have doubled in the whole country and more than doubled in the South.

The good roads movement benefits the farmer, because he can get his products from the farm to market quickly over good roads, and perhaps not at all over the muddy miles of the present roads. Good roads allow transportation in all kinds of weather; bad roads render it disagreeable and difficult, if not impossible. Good roads increase land values and give better school facilities, besides making rural social conditions in the winter far better. Secretary Wilson says that good roads will "particularly prove beneficial to the farmers of the South" because in this section of the nation, apart from the staple crops, "the soils will produce almost every known crop, and especially late winter and early spring varieties, when transportation from farm to railroad is rendered difficult owing to the cut up and rough condition of unimproved roads."

By his proclamation, Governor Mann has directed official attention and given official endorsement to this convention, but Virginia has long been committed to the cause of good roads. In almost every county in this Commonwealth there is at present agitation for better highways, and the county newspapers of Virginia have carried twice as much about this first good roads congress as they have printed about anything non-political in years. They have spread far and wide the intelligence that by attendance upon and participation in this convention Oscar W. Underwood, Democratic House leader; Secretary of Agriculture Wilson; Governors and road officials, Congressmen and President Taft himself signify their realization of the vital importance of good roads to the entire nation. From every one of the counties of Virginia should come to Richmond next week a large and representative delegation of those citizens who would promote the prosperity of their counties and of the State. Virginia pioneers blazed the ways in the beginning of the republic, and they should take no secondary part in a movement which would, through good roads, vastly improve and better the condition of the people of the South and the country.

ANOTHER BUSINESS ENDORSEMENT.

For the first time in the history of Richmond its business men are unanimous in a tremendous demand that it shall have a business-like government. No class in the community admires a new governmental proposition with such searching scrutiny as its business men, who subject such a matter to a microscopic view. In the cold light of truth and reason, they look at a proposition, seeking solely to find whether or not the thing proposed would make for economy, efficiency and the welfare of the city. With all their might, the business men of Richmond are backing the pro-

posed changes in its form of government because they believe that it will be successful and will advance every interest of Richmond. The Chamber of Commerce is leading the campaign for the proposed changes, and will carry on an aggressive fight for the reform. Now comes the Business Men's Club, proposing to hold a great meeting of its members, with a view to passing upon the new plan. It seems a foregone conclusion that this splendid business organization will support heartily and actively the newer form of government. One by one the business organizations are falling into line, and it is hoped that every organization in this city will back this movement for a city government operated upon the same principles used in successful, up-to-date and progressive business enterprises.

THE CHINESE PROBLEM.

The final outcome of the revolution in China, for the outbreak has long passed the stage of rebellion, no man can foresee with any degree of certainty. At present the situation is chaos, with the prophecy that the future will prove more chaotic before the end. Apart from its current political aspect, it involves shaking, if not overturning, the foundations of the oldest governmental and social order of the world—an order evolved out of a nebulous past far back of any chronicles of civilization. It has for weeks exceeded the proportions of the great Taiping rebellion, which lasted fourteen years, in both formidableness as represented in the numbers of the displaced, engaged, and in area of territory affected, and agencies and resources are at the piddling of the revolutionists that will enable them, if necessary, to carry on the fighting much longer than the Taipings could have done, even if Chinese Gordon had not appeared upon the scene of that struggle and taken command of the imperial armies.

Only one thing appears anything like certain, and that is that the Manchurian dynasty is doomed; for it is in an infinitely worse plight than it was when the Taipings were turned back and their uprising suppressed while they were virtually thundering at the gates of Peking. It is between the upper and the nether millstones, seeing that the spirit of revolt has spread to the three great provinces of Manchuria, and the people of those have also declared against the dynasty and for an independent republic of their own.

That this is more significant of the desperate straits in which the imperial house is now placed and much more indicative of the fact that its fate is sealed, than is the antidynastic movement in the middle kingdom, no matter how much greater may be the number of those engaged in the latter, must be obvious, since heretofore the "Manchurian clan" has been the mainstay of the throne in all demonstrations against it. For generations the Manchurian warriors have loyally supported the usurping regime in the Forbidden City, but now, in its hour of sorest need, deserts it. The causes for the defection are said to be abandonment by Peking of legitimate and vitally needed development of Manchuria for selfish exploitation in China proper, and the infection of the Manchurians with American and European ideas. But, be they what they may, it can hardly be questioned, it seems, that they have led to the infliction of a fatal wound to the perpetuation of alien rule, in the house of its friends.

We were told in the early stages of the outbreak that the revolutionists proposed, after expelling the usurping Manchurian rulers, to establish a republic, and that statement has been iterated several times since. The concept of a Chinese republic is little less than fantastic, not only to occidentals, but to some of the most earnest and intelligent native Chinese reformers, who have made it their duty and business to study the world's republican forms of government. More recently it has been indicated that, owing to lack of homogeneity, and absence among the revolutionists of a concrete common cause, save that of driving out the hated Manchus, the belief is widespread that the finality will be a splitting up—a self partition of the empire—and the grouping of contiguous provinces geographically related into several republics. One of such prospective republics, the three Manchurian provinces, it is learned, is taking steps to organize. Another view, that of a prominent and influential Chinese statesman and reformer now in exile, is that the solution of the problem is destined to be a constitutional monarchy, when the proper and inevitable leader, now unknown, shall arise to consolidate the nation—make it homogeneous.

As we have intimated, discussion of the solution is, in the circumstances of the anarchical and chaotic conditions, largely academic. But the thought must intrude itself, that while the latter solution might be better for China, the former might be better for the world—safer for the world and its peace. For should there evolve homogeneity in China, with her 450,000,000 of population, under central ambitious leadership, it might well be that the spirit of invasion and conquest would be again aroused, with the terrible sequence of Europe's witnessing another Attila drama.

The Birmingham Age-Herald is another newspaper that compliments Virginia and her courts on the handling of the Beattie case. It gives a history of the latter from the time of the condemned man's arrest to the denial of the appeal for a writ of error by the Supreme Court of Appeals, and says that the State of Alabama, and especially Jefferson county, where a murder trial is pending, "could learn now a valuable lesson from the manner of

the Mother of States" in dealing with such cases.

The Age-Herald leaves us to infer that the Virginia court system is being closely studied by those who are disgusted with the law's delay in Alabama, and its tangle of technicalities, and who advocate change and reform. For it cites the statement of lawyers that one reason for the more effective legal procedure in Virginia is that our system "is more like that of England, whence came the bulk of dominant Virginians" who established and developed the State's institutions.

The last report of the Reclamation Department Service shows that it has built 5,967 miles of canals, has excavated nineteen miles of tunnels, has completed three of the highest dams in the world, and as a result of these and its other numerous activities, water is available for 1,656,000 acres of previously useless land. The total expenditures of the department amount to \$59,580,000, and on the reclaimed lands the crop values in 1910 alone amounted to \$20,000,000.

All of which is an unanswerable economic argument for the reclamation by drainage of the vast swamp areas of the East and the South, which, it is admitted, would yield as much, if not more, per acre on the investment for reclamation than the reclaimed arid lands of the West.

What strange shiftings of roles come into the lives of some people! There recently passed through Richmond a college graduate who was once a very fair poet, but he is now demonstrating the uses of dynamite on farms. It is a long leap from "divine fire" to dynamite.

The bat used by Home Run Baker, of the Philadelphia Athletics was lately sold at auction for \$250, but they are still looking for the ball.

Voice of the People

Bird Murderers.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir.—An incident at the annual meeting of the Virginia Audubon Society, when subjects affecting the welfare of bird life were being discussed, impressed the writer as one which shows the true sentiment behind those most interested in all birds.

A lady, the wife of one of the most prominent physicians in Richmond, who was raised in one of the old Virginia Colonial country houses, was asked the attention of the chair for a few minutes and said, as near as I can remember: "The autumn leaves are falling fast, in fact, they are nearly all gone; the dense cover of the forest and thickets no longer prove the refuge of the 'Bob White' as in the months just past. Our brothers, the sportsmen, are afield with trained bird dogs. I would like for the society to send a message to these gentlemen telling them that, whereas we were not opposed to their hunting game birds, yet we hoped they would remember that the true sportsman did not try to kill every bird in a covey; never failed to see that a maimed bird was caught and disposed quickly; he refrained from shooting a bird seemingly out of range in the hopes that a scattering shot might hit it in some vital spot, when such a shot would just as often only wound the bird, causing it to die a slow death, that to kill him was just because he found many coveys of birds was not true sportsmanship, but murder," and many other timely messages, which showed she had been associated with the right kind of sportsman, and had heard them talk. It was surprising to note in the general discussion following this resolution the real knowledge many of these ladies had of sportsmen and near-sportsmen. It was evident that they did not care to have the sportsman's impression, nor would they enter into a discussion of the matter of game laws, for they only asked to be of assistance in passing any laws which would give better protection to all wild life. It was shown that the society would interest itself in having a State game commissioner; in a plumage bill, and would assist the game protective societies in any further legislation for the protection of wild life.

H. M.

A Plan for Better Streets.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir.—We are glad to see an Improvement League has been formed to help fix our streets. It has been promised for three years that it would be done. It has been started; and the day has been plowed up, and the mud and holes it is impassable. It would be much more fitting for the health authorities to see that the children go to school with dry feet than to see them with their feet in mud. In a few squares we have three schools and two churches, and all this mud to go through and children have to sit with wet feet all day, whilst streets are fixed that have no residents on them at all. It seems to me our Council works backwards in a good many cases. Now that they have proved all the fashionable parts of the city, please urge them to do something for the shams also. Being stalled in the mud. I do hope the league that has been formed will be doing good, as we are getting desperate. Please publish this for us and oblige.

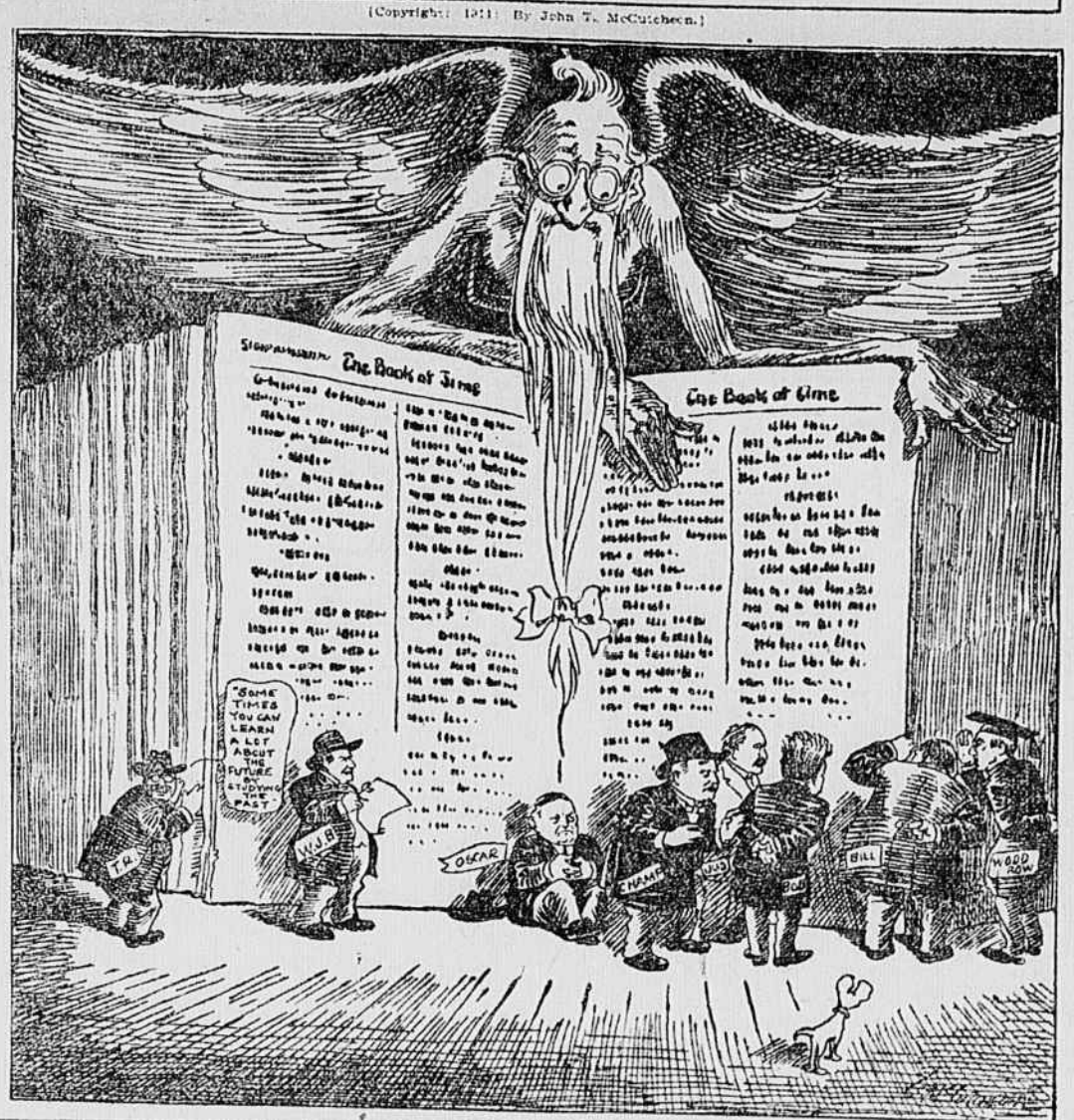
READER.

Abe Martin



Now, maybe somebody'll drop you a line. Girls that violate all 'th' rules on 'th' women's page seem 't' look 'th' swell.

WOULDN'T THEY LIKE TO LOOK A YEAR AHEAD!



La Marquise de Fontenoy

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

COUNT STEPHEN ZICHY, who lived in the United States on Sunday last, from Europe, on the American, and is now staying for a few weeks in New York, is a cousin of Count Geza Zichy, who has just handed to the Hungarian Academy of Music, on the occasion of the celebration at Budapest, of the centenary of Liszt, a sealed package, with a stipulation that it should not be opened for another ten years.

Count Geza Zichy was one of the most intimate friends of the famous abbe, and was himself a celebrated amateur pianist and composer in Europe. This is all the more remarkable since he lost his right arm at the age of sixteen, as the result of a shooting accident, and played with his left hand, but with such skill and genius that the absence of the right hand is not noted by those who have known him for many years, and have both when among a few relatives and friends, and in amateur concert parties, as I could see, he accomplishes the wonderful feat of playing by means of the wonderful flexibility of his fingers, and the melody, with the utmost delicacy of touch, and the way in which the accompanying fingers are played, sometimes two octaves lower by the remaining four fingers, is nothing less than a miracle, especially the nonchalance and ease with which it is accomplished. The count, who is a member of the Hungarian House of Lords, and possesses of a large estate, only plays in public on large occasions, by means of his amateur concert, and turned over to philanthropic enterprises and to the sum of over two millions of crowns during his long and useful life. Among his positions have been a couple of patriotic operas, one called "The Patriotic Opera," and the other "Master Roland," which have been produced with much success in Berlin, at the opera houses of the other great cities, and at Pesth, where for twenty years he filled, without pay, the court office of the general director of the royal opera.

The family, which is one of the noblest of the Royal Hungarian Conservatory of Music.

The package which he has placed in the archives of the Academy of Music in question contains, according to him, proofs that a review article always attributed to the abbe, and which the Hungarian music was belittled, an entirely a product of the Gipsies, was in reality a work of Liszt's friend, Princess Sayn-Wittgenstein.

The count created such an unpleasant stir in Hungary that Liszt's chivalry led him to take the entire contents of the article upon himself. Count Geza Zichy states further, that the documents in the package, when opened ten years hence, will reveal the whole of the charge of anti-Semitism sometimes brought against him. Count Geza Zichy has four children, one of his sons-in-law being likewise his cousin Count Zichy, who is Minister of Public Instruction and Public Worship in the present Hungarian Cabinet.

The family, which is one of the oldest in Hungary, its Castle of Zichy, in the Hungarian province of Somogy, has been in its possession since 1315, and its title of count, borne by all the members, dating from 1555, is one of the most numerous of the Hungarian nobility. The count and his wife are probably at the present moment near a hundred Count Zichy, and what is more, most of them are in affluent circumstances. The head of the family is the venerable Count Ferdinand Zichy, who is grand treasurer of the Hungarian crown, while two of his sons have held Cabinet offices.

One of the Zichys, Count Bela Zichy, formerly attached to the Austrian army, based at Washington, married Miss Mabel Wright, the divorced wife of the late Fernando Yznaga, and a sister-in-law, therefore, of the late Count D'Almeida, who was killed in England, in London and Eastbourne, or else on their estates in Hungary, residing in either Budapest or Vienna.

The count's wife, who is a widow, is an unpleasant, owing to the fact that the former Mrs. Yznaga is barred from court, both as a divorcee, and owing to being desirous of securing one or more copies in oil of the picture, intrusted the well-known Magyar painter Kardos with the original. He had just finished the copy, to the entire satisfaction of the Zichys who had ordered it, when their castle took fire, and was burned down, the duplicate being destroyed in the flames. Two more copies were then ordered from Kardos, but they never reached the hands of the family. For as they were passing through the streets of Pesth, in charge of servants, the pole of a wagon ran through them, and completely destroyed them. Kardos again set to work, and painted two more copies, which were mysteriously lost on their way by rail to

Daily Queries and Answers

Sketch of Author.

Will you please tell me where I can find a biographical sketch of Alice Brown?
 M. D. H.
 Alice Brown was born at Hampton Falls, N. H., on December 4, 1870. She graduated at Robinson Seminary, Exeter, N. H., in 1894. She resides at present in Boston. She wrote "Pools of Nature," "Meadow Grass," "Oak and Thorn," "Life of Mary Otis Warren," "The Road to Castaly," "The Day of His Youth," Robert Louis Stevenson's "Study," "Victorian Era," "King's End," "Margaret Warren," "The Manterfingers," "High Noon," "Paradise," "The Country Road," "The Court of Love," "The MacLeod," "The Story of Thyra," etc.

Robert T. Lincoln.

Will you kindly state the profession of Robert T. Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln?
 T.
 Robert T. Lincoln is a lawyer. His office is at 100 North Main Building, Chicago, Ill. For a number of years he was president of the Pullman Company, but he retired within a year.

Catholic Can Be Nominated.

Tell me whether a Catholic can be nominated for President of the United States, and if not, why?
 C. K.
 A Catholic can be nominated and elected to the presidency of the United States. The necessary qualifications for President as set forth in the Constitution are as follows: No person except a natural-born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years and been seven years a resident within the United States.

Heavy Storm.

Explain the cause of the heavy storm during the equinox.
 E. P.
 For at least 300 years past whenever a severe storm occurs on the equinox, it has been attributed to the Atlantic coast of North America or Great Britain at the season of the equinox, either autumnal or vernal, a noxious storm, or a high wind, sprang up a popular belief that such a severe storm is due at or near the equinox. The fact is, however, that the storm season for the year over North America begins with August and continues with increasing violence until March or April, and there is no special danger period more likely than another to be stormy. Of course, numerous severe storms are recorded near these dates, such as those of September 20, 1874; October 23, 1879; September 23, 1810, and others, all of them along the American coast, but it will be noticed that these dates have no close connection with the equinoctial date—September 22—and there are not more than a dozen such in the course of 300 years. The equinoctial storm is therefore simply a name given to the heaviest storm that happens to occur within a few weeks of the date of the equinox.

Manuscript Form.

In what form should a short story be submitted, i. e., is it necessary to have it typewritten or do they accept it merely written on manuscript? Should the title be written at the top of the first page? Must a letter giving the name of the place and the author's name accompany a manuscript? Should the manuscript be sent rolled? The word limit?
 R. B. M.
 It would be well to observe the following rules:

Manuscript should be securely inclosed in envelope or wrapper. It should never be rolled, but folded neatly and as few times as possible.

The name and address of the author should be placed on the upper left-hand corner of the wrapper, and on the same corner of the first page of the manuscript. The number of words in the story should be placed on the upper right-hand corner of the same page. If a pseudonym is to be used, it should appear under the title.

All manuscript, if possible, should be typewritten.

Use one side of the sheet only. Manuscript will not be returned unless postage is inclosed.

There is no fixed price for literary productions. The price is fixed by the publisher.

"If I Should Die."

Who wrote the poem, "If I Should Die To-Night," and when was it published?
 D. F.
 It was written by Belle E. E. Smith, and was first published in the Christian Union, June 15, 1874.

Tax Payers.

What is the proportion of women tax payers to men?
 E. P.
 There is no record.

neers, took advantage of his holiday stay in Brittany, in 1870, to quietly join the French forces in the field, under General Chanzy, and saw a considerable amount of active service there. Some inkling of the affair reached the military authorities in England, and on the right-hand corner of the wrapper of his return he was summoned to appear before the then commander-in-chief, the late Duke of Cambridge, who asked him for an explanation of his conduct. Strictly speaking, he should have been dismissed from the army for violating military regulations, and the duke's right was not to be questioned. It was so much pleased with the explanation given by young Kitchener, to the duke, that he thought it well to take advantage of the unique opportunity of seeing active service, and thus rendering himself a more useful officer to his own country, that he let him off with an official reprimand, but with a kindly smile of approval, coupled with a still more commendatory pat on the shoulder.

There are several Frenchmen in this country, veterans of the War of 1870, who will receive this medal, including Professor Kohn, of the Columbia University, and George Glanville of New York, who served throughout the campaign; likewise Frank Riggs, of the Jockey Club of Paris, and who is one of the very few American citizens who enrolled themselves under the French flag. Frank Riggs spends much of his time in cruising about in European waters on the big steam yacht of Mrs. Robert Gordon.

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Eleven Hundred and Nine East Main Street

is the temporary home of one of Richmond's Best Banks.